

Minutes of a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held on 29 March 1996 at 10:00 a.m. In H-769.

Present: Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Ms. J. Chegrinec, Secretary; Mr. R. Côté; Mr. H. Zarins; Dr. S. M. Graub; Ms. A. Kerby; Ms. A. Siano; Ms. D. Cooper; Ms. C. Sbrocchi; Prof. B. Barbieri; Mr. A. Feldman; Ms. A. Coombs; Ms. E. Robinson; Mr. D. Ellison; Mr. S. Zacharias; Mr. N. Baidoun; Ms. L. Kuilman; Mr. K. Lowther; Mr. J.F. Plamondon; Ms. K. Hedrich; Ms. L. Lipscombe; Mr. R. MacIver; Ms. L. Prendergast; Ms. C. Hedrich.

Absent: Dr. I.M. Barlow; Dr. R. Bonin.

1. Approval of the Agenda:

Mr. Feldman moved that the following two (2) changes be made to the agenda: a) item #6 be moved to immediately follow item #3 and, b) a speaking list be introduced at the appropriate time. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lowther. The agenda was approved as amended.

2. Remarks from the Chair:

a) **Loyola Campus Health Services:** Dr. Boisvert told Council that following consultation with the staff of Health Services, it had been decided to close the Loyola Health Services for the summer months. Meanwhile, the University had made the decision to close the Centennial Building resulting in the move of the Service. It was decided by the staff that in the short-term, the service would consolidate on the SGW campus and maintain a nursing presence on the Loyola Campus. In the long-term a recommendation may be forthcoming to consolidate the service permanently on one campus.

Mr. Lowther was informed that the nursing service at Loyola would be in the Dean of Students area.

b) **Other:** Dr. Boisvert provided an up-date on the review. The survey is now complete. The review committee will meet on Monday and discuss a date for tabling the report at CCSL. It is hoped the report will be tabled before the end of the academic year.

Ms. Kerby announced that the students had voted to accept the CSU health care insurance.

3. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of 16 February:

On page #6 it was pointed out by Mr. Feldman that Council had also

requested that Dr. Graub supply a list of alternative writing tutorials. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Lowther and seconded by Mr. Baidoun. The motion was carried.

6. Student Life Issues:

Mr. Feldman distributed the motion on the Centennial Building and gave some general comments. It is assumed by students that the University's rationale to vacate the Centennial building is justified. The students felt that they had been given relatively short notice in which to move. They would have preferred to have been more involved in the decision to close the building. They have met over the past two weeks with the groups involved and are confident that the University is committed to moving these groups. The radio station has expressed concern that the cost of moving them will increase due to the short notice.

At this point Mr. Feldman tabled the motion, seconded by Mr. Baidoun.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Council on Student Life endorse the following principles with respect to the relocation of student groups occupying the Centennial Building; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Council on Student Life advise the office of the Vice-Rector Services to ensure that these principles are respected throughout the relocation process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Council on Student Life request the Rector to recommend the adoption of these principles by the Board of Governors:

1. The Student Union shall be provided with complete information concerning the rationale for the closing of the Centennial Building, including the cost savings to be realized from this action, as well as complete information concerning available or potentially available space at the University.
2. Each student group currently occupying space in the Centennial Building shall be relocated in space that provides the same functional use as that currently occupied.
3. All costs related to the relocation shall be assumed by the University, including the costs of making space suitable to fulfil the functional needs of the users, as well as the costs of moving and related expenses.

4. Those groups that express a need to remain at Loyola shall be relocated at that campus.
5. Faculty and departmental academic associations, including those currently housed in the P-Annex, shall be relocated in or adjacent to their respective faculties or departments, or, where this is not currently possible, in the closest available space.
6. Academic associations relocated in their faculty or department shall receive formal assurance that such space shall not be withdrawn from them without adequate relocation.
7. No group shall be required to vacate the Centennial Building before replacement space has been made ready for occupation and use.

Discussion:

Dr. Boisvert was of the opinion that CSU had obtained guarantees from the University on most of the points. Mr. Feldman replied that this wasn't the case. He also stressed that CSU wasn't asking for the same amount of space, but for functional space. It was also not clear what costs the University would cover in, and as a result of, the moves. Mr. Feldman provided clarification on item #5. Mr. Côté pointed out that since items #5 and #6 don't directly impact on the CH building that they may have to be dropped. He proposed making an amendment to that effect. Mr. Feldman argued against the amendment. Item #5 reflects that this is a goal to move the 1/2 dozen academic associations out of the P Annex and move them into their respective faculties. The move from the CH building presented this opportunity. It was agreed to add the phrase "wherever possible" to item #5. Item #6 is included so that student associations will be guaranteed departmental space. It was agreed to combine items #5 and #6.

Dr. Boisvert clarified the funding situation. It said that it was never the intention of the University not to pay for the moves. It was recognized that part of the moves may include costs for renovations.

Mr. Côté said that the 15 June closing date would be extended indefinitely until all the moves are complete.

The motion was carried as modified. Dr. Boisvert will bring this motion forward to the Vice-Rector, Services. (The full revised motion is attached to these minutes).

4. Business Arising from the Minutes:

a) **Refocusing of the Learning & Writing Centre:** The Chair addressed the report prepared by Dr. Graub and included in the documents. He also distributed his own letter which was published in The Thursday Report. Dr. Graub re-emphasized that the Center is not being closed, only re-focused. The floor was opened to questions.

Mr. Baidoun said that the CSU and the student representatives on Council were in agreement with the need to refocus the Center. They also agreed that the Writing Center should be assumed by the academic sector. It was stated though, that they wanted a written guarantee by the academic sector that it was ready to assume this responsibility. The students could not approve a move of this service until this guarantee is received.

Mr. Baidoun tabled the following motion, seconded by Mr. Lowther.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Writing Assistants program continue operating as at present within the Learning and Writing Centre until a universally accessible alternative is established to provide the same services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any steps taken towards establishing such alternative include full consultation with students through their recognized student associations.

Dr. Boisvert questioned whether or not the motion could be introduced at this time. He said that the issue pertained to budget documents and budgetary decisions which had yet to be approved. He asked that tabling of the motion be re-considered to another time. Both Mr. Baidoun and Mr. Lowther refused to withdraw the motion. Mr. Feldman spoke in agreement to tabling the motion at the present time. Since the decision to close the Writing Assistants Program had been made prior to the preparation of the budget he didn't feel that a delay in discussing the motion was appropriate.

Ms. Kerby responded against tabling the motion prior to the budget decisions. She said that the decision to refocus the Center had been made throughout the year. The work of the program ends in mid-April and doesn't begin again until the fall. The writing program would not be continuing, therefore it should be looked at within the context of the budget documents. It is a critical decision which has to be made with regard to the overall picture.

Mr. Zacharias spoke in agreement to the motion. He said that Council should resolve this issue and then discuss the budget at the next meeting. Mr. Feldman argued that the intent of the student representatives was to allow

Council to make the decision to close the program. Prof. Barbieri said that since the issue had come to Council at the last meeting, prior to the budget being introduced, that CCSL should deal with it first.

Ms. Kerby asked that the motion be suspended and that Council go into a committee of the whole. After an explanation by Dr. Boisvert, a time frame was set. Mr. Feldman asked for speaking privileges for Ms. Mary Mar, Ms. Alison Grant and Mr. Ahmad Samman, Council agreed.

Mr. Lowther pointed out that the allegations of plagiarisms on page 2 of Dr. Graub's document are unsubstantiated. Dr. Graub said that the remarks were received as feedback from the faculties. Ms. Kerby agreed with Dr. Graub, saying that the feedback from the faculties has given the perception that plagiarism is occurring. Prof. Barbieri said that, as a faculty member, he had only heard positive things about the Center. Both Dr. Graub and Ms. Kerby re-emphasized that the re-focusing of the service is to address these perceptions.

Ms. Mar read a statement (copy attached). She also clarified for Council that the Center doesn't close in April but provides continual, year-round, support. Her major concern is that, to date, there is nothing concrete on a replacement service. Ms. Mar was followed by Ms. Grant, a Writing Programme Assistant and student who focused on responding to Dr. Boisvert's letter (copy attached). She disagreed that the Programme fosters dependence on the part of students. Also, she doesn't see it as a duplication of current programmes in the academic sector. Mr. Sammad then read his statement (copy attached). In summation Mr. Sammad said that he was in agreement with the principle of re-focusing the Center as outlined in the rationale. He agrees the Programme should fall under the academic sector, and he is also aware of the financial constraints. He pointed out though that there was no guarantee from the academic sector that they would adopt the programme for September 1996. He requested that until such time as a commitment is received and a plan is implemented, that CCSL continue to offer the writing assistance programme. Also he requested that CCSL transmit its intention to Senate to move the programme to the academic sector and stress the need for student support.

Mr. Ellison asked that if the programme is relocated that accessibility for disabled students be included in the plans. The programme should also have adequate facilities for Learning Disabled students. Mr. Plamondon stressed the unique opportunity that the programme provides to the writing assistant students to get experience in their field. Mr. Plamondon is a graduate of the writing assistance programme and credited the programme with helping him with his academic career.

Mr. Feldman said that 50% of the calls received by CSU over the last two

weeks had dealt with this issue. The programme benefits students, especially those whose first language isn't English. CCSL has a responsibility to ensure that it carries on either in Student Services or the academic sector. Mr. Baidoun said that the sole purpose of the motion is to provide peace of mind on the future of the programme.

Mr. Zacharias and Prof. Barbieri spoke in support of Mr. Feldman's statement. Mr. Côté, although in agreement with the positive aspects of Mr. Sammad's statement, said that the programme didn't fit into the re-focusing of the Center in terms of learning disabilities assessments.

At this point the discussion moved out of committee of the whole.

Mr. Baidoun re-stated his motion, which was seconded by Mr. Zacharias.

Dr. Graub and Ms. Kerby spoke against the motion. They felt that it no longer fitted into the re-focused Learning Center and should become the responsibility of the academic sector.

Mr. Baidoun, Mr. Feldman, Mr. Lowther, Prof. Barbieri, and Mr. Plamondon spoke in favour of the motion. They emphasized that they were not against the strategic plan for the Center. They didn't want the programme moved until such time as it was ready to be implemented in the academic sector.

Ms. Kerby tabled the following amendment, seconded by Dr. Graub. Take out "...as at present".

Mr. Zacharias, Mr. Feldman spoke against the amendment. It was felt these words added more pressure to resolve the issue before Council dissolves for the year. Also, the words were added in to preclude any possibility that the programme could be reduced. They indicate that the programme is to be kept operating as it is presently doing.

Mr. Côté spoke in favour of the amendment. He felt that the change would still provide the same level of service to meet the needs of the clientele.

Council agreed to vote on the amendment to remove the words "...as at present". All in favour - 6, Opposed - 11. The amendment was defeated.

Putting on definite time frame on the moving of the programme into the academic sector was proposed. Mr. Lowther suggested added a BE IT RESOLVED. Mr. Feldman initially proposed a statement but it was withdrawn as being unfriendly.

It was agreed by Council to replace the words the "...Learning and Writing Centre" with Student Services. It was also agreed to add the words "...and their representatives on CCSL". (Revised amendment attached).

Mr. Zacharias called the question.

Council voted on the motion as amended. All in favour - 12, opposed - 5, motion carried.

5 minute recess

b) Funding Proposal Orientation Programme: The following motion was tabled by Mr. Côté and seconded by Mr. Lowther.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT an Orientation Fee be introduced, commencing in the 1996-1997 academic year. The purpose of the fee will be to support the University Student Orientation Programme. The fee will be set at \$25 for all new part-time students and \$35 for all new full-time students. The fee will apply to all new undergraduate and graduate students.

Mr. Côté reported that the University had agreed to cover half of the deficit, \$85,000. Dr. Proppe had already authorized \$40,000 to be paid and had committed the other \$45,000.

Discussion on the issue involved Mr. Zacharias, Mr. Baidoun, Ms. K. Hedrich, Ms. Prendergast, Mr. Lowther, Mr. Feldman, and Prof. Barbieri. Dr. Boisvert suggested that Ms. Hedrich meet with the appropriate people to work out the mechanics of implementing the fee.

Ms. Hedrich asked if the fee was non-refundable which led to the following amendment to the motion..... "BE IT RESOLVED that a non-refundable Orientation Fee be introduced..." (copy of revised motion attached).

Mr. Zacharias emphasized that the repayment of the remaining deficit should be determined by CCSL.

The motion was carried.

Dr. Boisvert introduced the newly-elected CSU President, Mr. Daniel Gagnon.

5. Report from Planning & Resources Committee:

Ms. Kerby, Co-Chair, asked that any comments on the Library Review be forwarded to her as soon as possible.

7. Reports from Directors:

It was determined by Ms. Siano that there wasn't enough time to allow Health Services to do an adequate presentation. The remainder of the agenda will be deferred until the next meeting.

Dr. Boisvert announced the CCSL Awards Night - 1 April, at 7:00 p.m., in the SGW Faculty Club.

The meeting was adjourned to 4 April 1996 at 10:00 a.m., room to be advised.